Bernoulli Random Variables

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In general we can consider a Bernoulli random variable to be the result of an experiment with two outcomes, which for convenience we will label "success" and "failure"

As before we define the Bernoulli random variable X by agreeing to assign the value of 1 to X if the result of the experiment is "success", and zero if the result is "failure":

 $X = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if the outcome of the experiment is "success"} \\ 0 & \text{if the outcome of the experiment is "failure"} \end{cases}$

Now consider a series of *independent* experiments, each of which produces a Bernoulli random variable with probability of success p (p is the same for all of the trials)

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If the number of trials n is fixed in advance, the number of successes X has a **binomial** distribution

If trials continue indefinitely until the first success is obtained, the number of failures obtained X has a **geometric** distribution.

If trials continue indefinitely until the r^{th} success is obtained, the number of failures obtained X has a **negative binomial** distribution.

The negative binomial experiment with parameters r and p consists of:

- Independent Bernoulli trials are performed until r "successes" are obtained
- The random variable X is the number of failures obtained
- The probability of success p is the same for all trials

The mean or expected value of a negative binomial random variable is:

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The variance of a negative binomial random variable is:

$$\sigma^2 = V(X) = \frac{f(1-p)}{p^2}$$

Now we will perform some numerical experiments.

First generate a sample of 1,000,000 observations for a negative binomial experiment with r = 3 and probability of success p = 0.4 at each trial:

x<-rnbinom(1000000,3,0.4)</pre>

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To get a table of the results enter table(x)

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Now plot a histogram of the results:

hist(x)

To get a table of the results enter

table(x)

The results through X = 6 should look something like:

0	1	2	3	4	5	
63851	114835	138084	138075	124924	103961	835

0 1 2 3 4 5 63851 114835 138084 138075 124924 103961 8358 Now compare the frequencies to the probabilities. First compute the probability that X = 0: dnbinom(0,3,0.4)

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[1] 0.064

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[1] 0.064

To get the probability that X = 1 enter dnbinom(1,3,0.4)

0 1 2 3 4 5 63851 114835 138084 138075 124924 103961 8359 Now compare the frequencies to the probabilities. First compute the probability that X = 0: dnbinom(0,3,0.4) The result should be something like [1] 0.064

To get the probability that X = 1 enter

```
dnbinom(1,3,0.4)
```

This time the results should look something like:

[1] 0.1152

0 1 2 3 4 5 63851 114835 138084 138075 124924 103961 8358 Next compute the probability that X = 2:

dnbinom(2,3,0.4)

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The result should be something like

[1] 0.13284

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dnbinom(2,3,0.4)

The result should be something like

[1] 0.13284

To get the probability that X = 5 enter

dnbinom(5,3,0.4)

0 1 2 3 4 5 63851 114835 138084 138075 124924 103961 8358 Next compute the probability that X = 2:

```
dnbinom(2, 3, 0.4)
```

The result should be something like

[1] 0.13284

To get the probability that X = 5 enter

```
dnbinom(5,3,0.4)
```

This time the results should look something like:

```
[1] 0.1045094
```

The expected value E(X) in this case is:

$$E(X) = \frac{r(1-p)}{p} = \frac{3(.6)}{.4} = 4.5$$

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To compute the sample mean \overline{x} , enter mean(x)

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$$E(X) = \frac{r(1-p)}{p} = \frac{3(.6)}{.4} = 4.5$$

To compute the sample mean \overline{x} , enter mean(x) The result should be something like [1] 4.50794

The variance V(X) in this case is:

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To compute the sample variance s^2 , enter var(x)

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$$V(X) = \frac{r(1-p)}{p^2} = \frac{3(.6)}{.4^2} = 11.25$$

To compute the sample variance s^2 , enter var(x) The result should be something like [1] 11.23359

A fair coin is tossed until the third heads comes up.

Find the probability that the third heads comes up on the fifth toss.

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Solution: 0.1875

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```
dnbinom(5-3,3,0.5)
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Find the probability that the third heads comes up on the fifth toss or sooner.

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Solution: 0.5

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Solution: 0.5

```
pnbinom(5-3,3,0.5)
```

A fair coin is tossed until the first heads comes up.

Find the probability that this takes more than 9 tosses.

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Solution: 0.9101562

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1 - pnbinom(9 - 3, 0.5)

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Find the probability that this takes 9 or more tosses.

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Solution: 0.8554688

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1-pnbinom(8-3,3,0.5)

A baseball player has a .300 batting average.

Find the probability that their third hit in a game occurs on the 5^{th} time at bat.

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